THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) has signed an MoU with Transparency International India on 15.2.2008 for implementation of Integrity Pact.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) AAI is implmenting Integrity Pact w.e.f. 1.4.2008 on contracts of Civil/ Electricial/Composite projects of value more than Rs. 50 crores and CNS/Electronics Projects, land and commercial contracts of value more than Rs. 25 crores.

Upgradation of Small Airports

3725. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to upgrade small airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the list of small airports selected to be upgraded, State-wise;

(d) the cost involved in the likely upgradation;

(e) whether some of the State Government have agreed to enter into an agreement with the Central Government for upgradation of the airports in their States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Airports Authority of India (AAI) proposes to upgrade some of its non-operational small airports in the country, subject to availability of land from the concerned State Governments free of cost and some other facilities.

(c) and (d) Airports upgradation works have been taken up by AAI at Mysore in Karnataka, Warrangal and Cuddapah in Andhra Pradesh; Passighat, Tezu, Along, Daparizo and Zero in Arunachal Pradesh; Kailasahar and Kamalpur in Tripura; Tura in Meghalaya; Akola, Gondia and Baramati in Maharashtra; Surat in Gujarat; Jharsuguda in Orissa; Malda and Behala in West Bengal. These projects are at various stages of initiation/completion. The likely cost of these works is about Rs. 300 crores.

Airports of North Eastern States mentioned above are being funded by the North Eastern Council (NEC).

(e) and (f) Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) have been signed by AAI with the concerned State Governments in respect of Mysore, Warrangal, Cuddapah and Surat airports.

Air India Express services from Hyderabad

3726. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any request from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding Air India Express services connecting Hyderabad to Bangkok, Riyadh and Kuwait;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A request was received from Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh in October, 2006 for operation of Air India Express flights from Hyderabad to Gulf Countries and Bangkok. Air India Express is planning three flights a week from Hyderabad to Abu Dhabi by end of April, 2008. Currently, Air India Express has no plans for operations to Bangkok, Riyadh and Kuwait from Hyderabad. However, Air India is operating non-stop flights from Hyderabad to Bangkok and Kuwait and through hub and spoke operations over Mumbai to Riyadh.

Accident at Delhi Airport

3727. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a recently purchased (only six months back) Aircraft engine cover came off and fell on the runway in Delhi on 23 February, 2008 there by grounding 150 passengers for a day;

(b) if so, whether it was a manufacturing defect or poor maintenance by Air India;

(c) what are the findings of the investigations carried out to probe this unfortunate incident; and

(d) what steps have been taken to improve the maintenance of Air India aircrafts to avoid recurrence of such life-threatening eventualities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. M/s National Aviation Company of India Limited (NACIL)-A-321 aircraft VT-PPD while operating Charter flight from Delhi to Srinagar on 24.2.2008 was involved in an incident during take-off where in the bottom latches only of the nose cowl of right hand engine opened up. The aircraft returned and landed safely at Delhi.

(b) and (c) Investigation of the failed parts revealed that the failure of anti-rotation key of forward and aft keeper assembly probably changed the latch tension by repeated opening and closing of fan cowl, which has resulted in detachment of latch engagement in the eyebolt, leading to cowl opening. Based on *prima facie* evidence the privileges of the licences of both the departure engineer and the engineer who earlier carried out weekly inspection have been suspended.

(d) The aircraft utilised for scheduled services are maintained in an airworthy condition by carrying out sheduled maintenance as stipulated by the manufacturers and approved by Directorate General of Civil Aviation. NACIL has issued A321 Technical Circular No. 5 of 2008 for the information of all the engineers regarding proper opening/closing of engine fan cowl doors.

Traffic problem of IGI Airport

3728. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state: